SUBJECTS.

117. The desirability of allowing the teachers in the Private Schools to participate in the benefits of the State Life Assurance and also of starting a Provident Fund for all teachers.

Mr. P. M. Chacko, B. A. (Member, Kottayam taluk) said that, with the introduction of the Education Code, the *quasi* public nature of the Private Schools had been recognised and all the recognised ones were under departmental control. Teachers in Private Schools were to have the same qualifications as the teachers in the Departmental Schools and the duties and responsibilities of both were identical. A teacher in the former was also eligible for admission to the Education Department. But as regards pay or prospects, promotion or pension, the teachers in the Private Schools were at a considerable disadvantage. The teachers in the Departmental Schools were confident that they would have at the time of their retirement their pension or their insurance policy in the State to fall back upon, while the private teachers had not any such advantage. The result was that the private teachers migrated from one school to another. With a view to remedy, at least partially, the existing evil, the Member prayed that the private teachers might be allowed to participate in the benefits of the State Insurance. According to the State Life Insurance Rules, only *public servants* could insure their lives. The teachers in the Private Recognised Schools were also treated as public servants for all practical purposes, though they were not paid from the public funds. There were at present only 915 policy holders and any scheme for increasing the number of policy-holders would, he thought, be financially sound.

He next said Rule 65 of the Education Code laid down that "Teachers in Private institutions to whom licenses have been issued under the foregoing provisions will be eligible for the benefits of such pension or Provident Fund for teachers as may be instituted by the Government." He also referred to a speech delivered by the Dewan in which he had expressed the hope that a Provident Fund for teachers would soon be started. He said that his request for starting a Provident Fund for teachers was thus based on a promise. He prayed that it be sanctioned at an early date.

Dewan.—In regard to the insurance, how would you propose to collect the premia ?

Member.—The Managers will collect the premia and remit them as they fell due. If any insured failed to pay, he would forfeit the insurance under the rules.

Dewan.—Now about the Provident Fund, I take it that your point is that it should be made applicable to *all* teachers in schools, both Government and Aided. Here again, will the Managers be prepared to co-operate with the Government ?

Member.—Some Managers would be willing; and others may say that they have not got the money. But, if the Government take the initative and put some pressure on them, the latter will also easily co-operate.

Dewan's reply.—The Director of Public Instruction will be asked to consult a few selected Managers and report on both the questions.

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